

LEARNING

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ENGAGEMENT

STATE AGRICULTURE

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Across Generations



Across Montana

MONTANA
STATE UNIVERSITY

EXTENSION

2012 Annual Report



Montana State University President Waded Cruzado is a passionate and committed advocate for the land-grant university system and its tripartite mission of education, research and service. She has become a nationally recognized expert on the impact of the 1862 Morrill Act (creating the land-grant university system), the 1887 Hatch Act (creating the Agricultural Experiment Station), and the 1914 Smith-Lever Act that gave us Extension.

In a November 2012 speech to the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities, Cruzado outlined the critical role of Extension historically and its continued importance in completing the inseparable goals of education, research and service. Following are excerpts:

Many people are surprised to learn that Extension was designed to complete and complement the educational mission of land-grant universities. Extension was conceived as the vehicle that would transmit the research conducted in the labs and in the fields, the lessons that were taught in the classroom, and to those individuals who were not "residents" of the land-grant universities.

Because of Extension, and the nature of its geographical presence, we can rightfully assert that our entire state is our campus. Actually, Extension occupies not only the dimension of "place" but the dimension of time as well, with programs and services offered year-round. With almost no restrictions in place and in time, Extension provides access to all, sharing the land-grant value of serving every man, woman and child who can benefit from the fruits of our educational labor.

Extension was among the first programs to encourage the direct participation of its users in the process of planning, implementation and assessment of its programs.

Extension is not only about service and outreach: it is truly about engagement.

The vectors of Extension do not point just in one direction; Extension provides a two-way street promoting an exchange that strengthens the skills and the self-confidence of the user as much as the talents, expertise and knowledge of its providers.

We need Extension today, more than ever, because our society is growing not only in size, but also in the nature and complexity of its problems. The recent and painful lessons of natural disasters, the threats of man-made catastrophes, of pandemic diseases, and the fragility of the technological systems on which our trust and welfare so blindly reside, give us reason to be concerned. But we also need Extension not only for the times of deprivation and sorrow, but also for those of prosperity and happiness. People in Extension know that the future will always be better, of necessity, if it finds us with the unwavering commitment to learn from each other and to help each other.



Learning, Discovery, and Engagement

As I prepare these comments, I think of many of the opportunities for celebration and reflection that have occurred since the last issue. Land-grant universities across the nation have celebrated the 2012 bicentennial of the Morrill Act, which was responsible for creating the land-grant university system. The purpose of the Morrill Act was to assure that education would be available to all. The mechanism for taking the knowledge of the university to the people was created through the Smith Lever Act of 1914 and the official designation of Extension as an integral part of the land-grant mission. Montana State University Extension will soon be celebrating this centennial landmark.

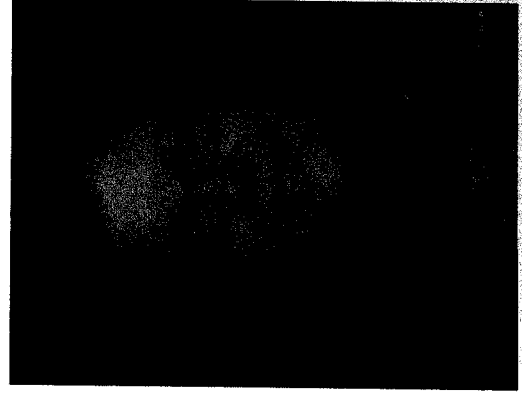
In 2012, Montana also celebrated 100 years of Montana 4-H – the youth development program of Extension. The theme for the 4-H centennial was “Past, Present, Possibilities” and it applies to all of MSU Extension as we reflect on the past, celebrate the present and envision the possibilities. Throughout the past 100 years, Extension has experienced times of welcomed growth; changing demographics; scientific advancements and new strategies for addressing challenging issues. While times have and are changing, the mission of Extension remains true to its roots as “an educational resource dedicated to improving the quality of people’s lives by providing unbiased, research-based knowledge to strengthen the social, economic and environmental well-being of families, communities and agricultural enterprises.”

Extension programming is not always planned in advance, but often emerges with whatever local need requires immediate attention. Extension responses to family health, youth issues, plant and animal diseases, sustainable agriculture, oil spills, fires, floods, droughts, family economics, energy issues, community growth and other needs are just a few of the examples where the multi-disciplinary expertise of combining the strengths of county faculty and university specialists have made considerable financial and personal differences in the outcomes for individuals, families and communities. This report highlights many of the Extension programs, partnerships and outcomes that are positively influencing the present and future of Montana.

As we look to the future, Extension has an opportunity to clearly align the Extension strategic plan with the MSU strategic plan of “integrating learning, discovery and engagement.” That’s what Extension has done for the past 100 years and it is clearly the model for bringing the university to the people. You’ll see even more of that in the future as we envision the possibilities. Thank you to the clientele, volunteers, stakeholders and advocates of MSU Extension. Your support, involvement and interest in the mission and vision make the possibilities endless.



Dr. Jill Martz
Interim Director
Montana State University Extension

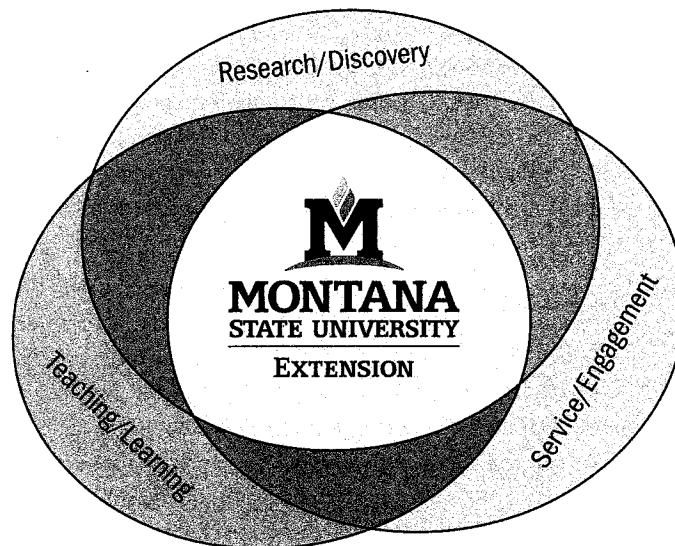


MSU Extension: **ACROSS GENERATIONS, ACROSS MONTANA**

Montana State University Extension campus and community-based faculty work together with all communities to help all ages of Montanans thrive.

MISSION: MSU Extension is a statewide educational outreach network that applies unbiased, research-based university resources to address community needs.

Montana State University approved a new strategic plan in September 2012, which includes six goal areas: Learning, Discovery, Engagement, Integration, Access and Stewardship. MSU Extension provides leadership in each of these goal areas and is focused on achieving excellence.



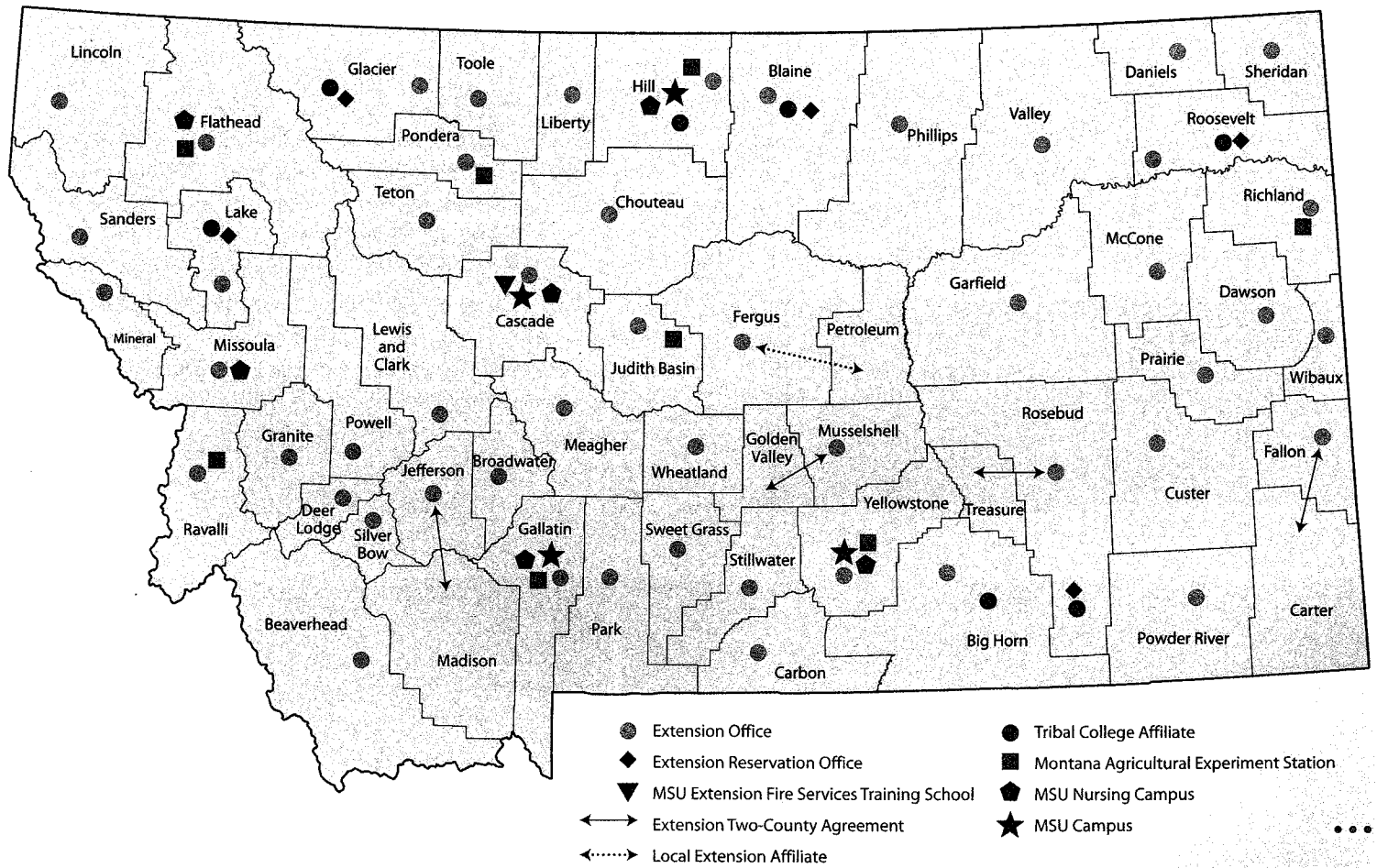
Extension is the model for integration of learning, discovery and engagement.

Teaching/Learning: MSU Extension agents and specialists are MSU faculty members. There are 92 agents and 32 specialists living and working in more than 60 offices and communities statewide. They offer extensive training opportunities ranging from how to safely serve and preserve foods, prepare a will, or identify invasive weeds. Extension's focus is on giving clients tools to learn: to gain abilities and knowledge to make decisions that can successfully improve their lives and communities.

Research/Discovery: MSU Extension completes research in many places, including fields, city buildings and schools to find effective solutions to challenging problems, ranging from improving profitability in beef cattle operations to increasing community health and wealth or managing natural resources. Research helps discover new knowledge to solve current problems and prevent or better manage future challenges.

Service/Engagement: MSU Extension works locally to support individuals, families and communities. Extension employees around the state can be found offering support to veterans and their children, coordinating disaster relief responses or providing group leadership to address city/county-wide concerns. Because Extension is local, partnerships are strong and trust is carefully established over time, allowing Extension to fully engage with communities for long-term, positive impacts.

The following pages share examples of MSU Extension's multiple efforts in many local communities to serve all Montanans in additional and innovative ways that integrate learning, discovery and engagement while providing access and stewardship.



Fire and Drought Assistance and Education

MSU Extension has and continues to play a large role in disaster prevention, response and recovery. The 2012 wildfire and drought season clearly demonstrates the depth of involvement by Extension in management and recovery.

MSU Extension set up an informational website (www.msuextension.org/wildfire), and had more than 2800 unique visits during the active fire season.

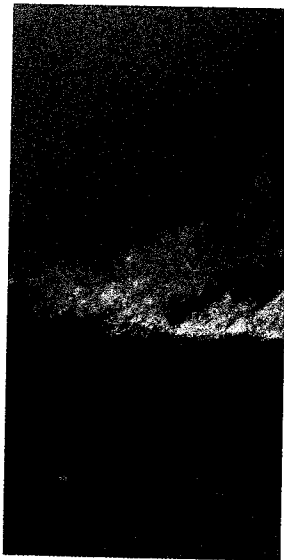
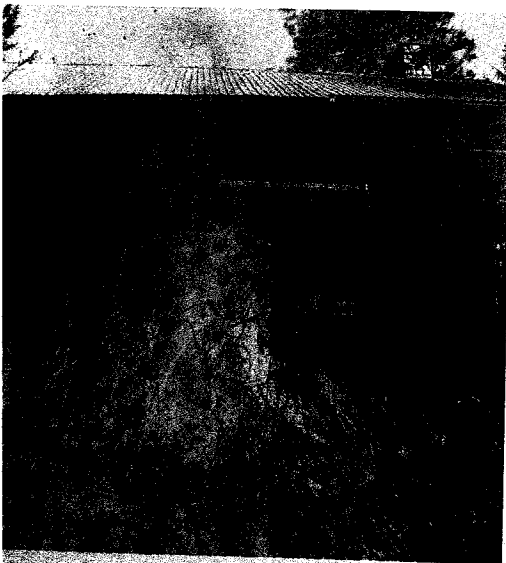
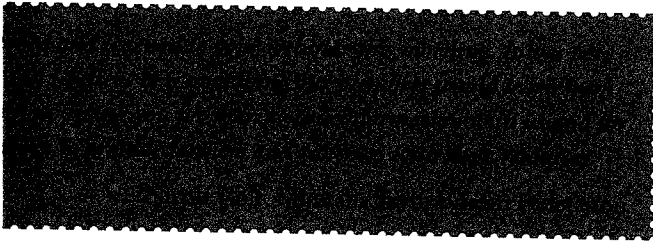
A Fire/Drought Webinar series included seven presentations (Minimizing Wildfire Damage, Drought Management Strategies for Beef Cattle Producers, Managing Stress during Natural Disasters, Variability in Stock Water Quality Changes Due to Drought, Cattle and Feedstuff Market Outlook and Considerations, Rangeland Recovery and Managing Weeds after Wildfire) and the recordings continue to be available online (www.msuextension.org/wildfire/).

Prevention

MSU Extension forestry specialist Peter Kolb and county agents around the state conduct Forest Stewardship Planning Workshops and meet individually with landowners to help them create survivable space around their home and reduce the danger from wildland fires.

Kolb suggested, "The things you can do immediately are to reduce the fine fuels around your house and property by raking and disposing of pine needles and cones, using Firewise principles to protect your house and grazing or mowing grass and fine brush. Managing your forest can be essential..."

As an example of work going on around the state, MSU Extension Gallatin County natural resource agent Crystal Beckman works with landowners in Park, Gallatin and Meagher Counties on wildfire education, prevention, and mitigation. Community meetings, home assessments, and grant funds for implementation of a fuels reduction project are all available.



Response

MSU Extension agents provide leadership during disasters by helping to manage communications with multiple partners to bring the best results.

- One day after the 19-mile Fire began, Jefferson County Commissioners and Extension staff worked together to organize daily local meetings for landowners and evacuees. After the fire was contained, Extension organized a workshop for landowners with MSU Extension forestry specialists and agents, FireSafe Montana and local Conservation District staff to discuss topics including erosion, flood control, fire behavior, restoration and creating a defensible space around the home.

- MSU Extension agents working the Dahl Fire partnered with others to acquire and distribute approximately \$10,000 worth of hay to 22 small landowners to feed livestock until other arrangements could be made.

Recovery

MSU Extension agents are working within communities who endured fires and continue efforts to mitigate loss and maximize potential benefits.

“Sixteen property owners in a residential area in Paradise Valley are participating in the Pine Creek Fire Reseeding and Planting Program led by MSU Extension in Park County. The program will save them up to 75 percent of the costs to reseed their property. This program will reduce potential soil erosion and weed infestation of nearly 500 acres burned by the Pine Creek Fire.” stated Park County agent Tracy Mosley.

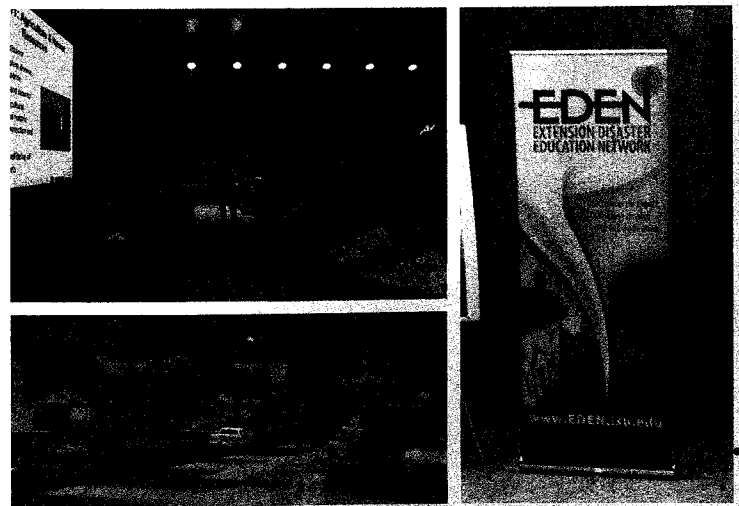
Disaster Planning and Management

MSU Extension frequently takes a leadership role in proactively planning for and managing disasters.

Deer Lodge County agent Barb Andreozzi commented, “Our county is more ready for a disaster via the Ready Community pilot project, developing our first shelter, a generator backing up the water supply, etc., plus helping the nation by developing a community development process for FEMA.”

In February 2012, The Institute of Medicine (IOM) and Centers for Disease Control Public Involvement hosted a national public health pandemic preparedness study and workshop in Fort Benton, with Chouteau County Extension agent Linda Williams and 75 volunteers from the county participating. The workshop was held in only three places in the United States – Fort Benton, Chattanooga and Los Angeles.

Following flood and fire disasters in 2011 and 2012, Musselshell-Golden Valley agent John Pfister, Broadwater County agent Virginia Knerr, and Chouteau County agent Linda Williams were appointed by Montana DNRC to act as communication liaisons during state disasters.



Community and Economic Development

MSU Extension supports community development through leadership and government training, obtaining assistance and making grants, and coordinating and participating in partnerships and projects at the community, county and state level.



Local Government Center

Montana's county and city officials are responsible for more than \$1 billion in public funds and more than 11,000 employees. Many of these public servants have little or no training in roles and responsibilities, human resources, public meeting laws or budgeting and financing. MSU Extension's Local Government Center (LGC) provides the only training, technical assistance and research of its kind for Montana's county and city elected officials and other employees.

The LGC offers more than 100 affordable professional development workshops each year.

Ninety percent of newly elected county commissioners attend a 40-hour (2-year) certification program and over 70 percent of municipal clerks, treasurers and finance officers receive certification through a 120-hour (3-year) training program. More than 7,000 local officials and citizen board members attended one or more LGC workshops in FY11.

LGC training prevents costly errors that could negatively impact counties and municipalities up to millions of dollars.

MSU Extension offers leadership development and strategic planning programs across the state, including workshops on conflict management, facilitator training, and understanding personality dynamics.



Community Development

MSU Extension agents live and work in the communities they serve, providing a historical, trusted link connecting leaders and interest groups and focusing efforts toward community vitality. After more than 35 communities participated in the Horizons community development program with Extension, several are continuing with efforts to create local community foundations, publicly supported nonprofits created to focus philanthropy locally.

A new USDA grant through a partnership with the Anaconda Local Development Corporation (ALDC), the Montana Community Foundation and MSU

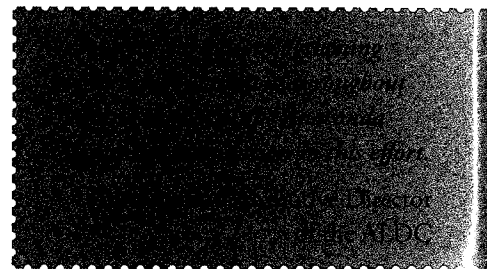
Extension will allow at least 20 Extension agents and 18 community foundations to

receive, over a 3-year period, much-needed training in strategic planning, grant making, fundraising, endowment building, community collaboration and leadership development.

Betsy Webb, MSU Extension project coordinator, said "Extension agents who work and live within these communities will be able to support the capacity building aims of this grant through leadership development, strategic planning and educational services."

Rosebud-Treasure County agent Jennifer Anderson said "The Montana Community Foundation estimates a large transfer of wealth will be taking place in Montana in the next 10 years. Creating community foundations helps ensure a community's vitality by providing a mechanism to keep local financial capital from exiting the area when transfers of wealth occur."

According to Roosevelt County Agent Ardis Oelkers, "The Culbertson Area Community Foundation gathers, grows and grants funds to enhance the quality of life."



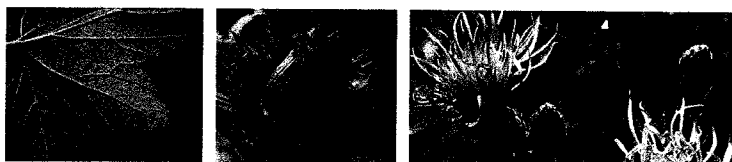
Addressing Weeds and Plant Pests

MSU Extension provides plant and pest education through identification services, online and print publications (including MontGuides), and pest- and plant-specific classroom and field trainings.

Schutter Diagnostic Lab

Montana State University and MSU Extension identify plants, plant diseases, insect infestation, insect damage, abiotic problems, and mushrooms through the Schutter Diagnostic Lab (SDL). The high economic value of the SDL benefits the citizens of Montana and adjoining states.

- The direct economic impact of recommendations in 2011 was more than \$100 million.
- In 2012, education of one field agronomist about stripe rust is estimated to have impacted 48,000 acres with an economic benefit to growers of \$4 million.
- Wheat streak mosaic virus samples and recommendations during a field visit saved growers in Pondera County \$540,000 in crop replacement costs and realized yields.
- A group planning to make jam from the fruit of white bryony, which resembles grapes, could have been fatal if not identified.
- Agro-emergency preparedness education reached 4,500 growers directly and 170,000 indirectly through television appearances on Montana Ag Live (on MontanaPBS) during 2011.
- In 2011, diagnosticians reached an audience of more than 54,000 with diagnostic and IPM-related presentations and publications.



Publications and Education

More than 14,000 noxious weed identification booklets were distributed from 2010-2012.

Invasive Plant and Early Detection and Rapid Response Training is a free, self-directed online course promoting early detection and rapid response (EDRR) to noxious weeds across Montana and the region. The goal of EDRR is to recognize high priority plants and take actions to manage them while populations are small, meaning they can be eradicated or controlled with much less cost financially and environmentally. The course also provides continuing education credits for pesticide applicators.

Pesticide Education Program

The MSU Pesticide Education Program provides education and outreach as a private (farm) pesticide certification program. This program assures that restricted use pesticides (RUP's) are used in a manner that increases the safety of approximately 6,100 Montana applicators and their families while minimizing environmental risk and offering cost incentives. Fifty-six MSU Extension agents and the statewide Extension coordinator have provided pesticide education services, which have measurable impacts on Montana citizens.

- In 2011, approximately 4,200 Montana citizens received pesticide training through 220 approved certification programs statewide. Multiple publications cover a wide array of topics including calibration, pesticides and the environment, pesticide safety, and toxicity.

Healthy Living

ASU Extension healthy living programs reach people young and old, urban and rural, and at all income levels. Because of the local, trusted programming, Extension agents can approach healthy living through small social, systematic, community changes to tackle issues of nutrition, obesity and cardiovascular disease.

Cardiovascular Risk Reduction

This blood pressure and cholesterol reduction program focuses on people living in frontier areas of Montana and the vital health care education and referrals that Extension provides to agricultural families. It is funded in part by the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) Cardiovascular Health Program. Agents use a variety of educational, environmental change, and policy strategies, with blood pressure screening at the top of the list. Mini-grants have been offered in counties as part of a statewide hypertension initiative to improve blood pressure and cholesterol control in Montanans.

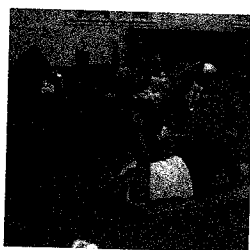
In 2011, 26 county and reservation offices participated, and reached 10,000 people with education and outreach materials created by DPHHS. The mini-grants have been offered for a second year with 15 offices participating.

It was reported that farmers and ranchers in some communities often use these as indicators of heart health such as high blood pressure and high cholesterol. But, as a result of this program, more producers are scheduling primary physician visits after finding high blood pressure during screening events.

A woman in her 70s said, "Thank goodness you checked. I'd been having trouble sleeping and other physical complaints, but never thought to check my blood pressure." Because of your screening, she scheduled with her health care provider to control her blood pressure. She knows what might have happened if it hadn't been for the screening," she added.

Strong Women

Extension agents around the state have been certified to teach Strong Women™ programs, which are designed to increase muscle strength through strength training. Extension helps meet the health needs of under-served people in Montana's rural settings, with specific promotion to older women who are at highest risk for low physical activity and access to educational opportunities. Participants attest to gains in many areas of their life, and health care providers are referring patients to the program.



You'd think that running a ranch would keep a woman strong, but...I couldn't have gotten through lambing and calving if I hadn't participated in this program.

Deb Archer, participant in Powder River County

ServSafe

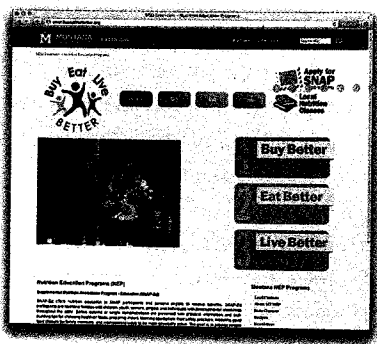
Extension agents provide the ServSafe food safety training program in Montana communities for school, community and commercial food service employees. ServSafe has important messages for food service personnel in four main areas: good personal hygiene, controlling time and temperature, preventing cross contamination and cleaning/sanitizing. Learning proper food preparation techniques assures that food is prepared safely and helps avoid the risk of illness.

One participant from Roosevelt County remarked, "I plan to let my kids know about hand washing and keeping nails clean; use separate cooking utensils when cooking and wash them more often; make sure employees are using gloves and that they are changing them when they become contaminated; I learned about properly cleaning and disinfecting work areas."



SNAP-Ed

MSU Extension is the educational partner for SNAP (the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) in Montana, providing nutrition education and training for participating families. Visit the website for helpful tips in making decisions affecting family health www.msuextension.org/nep/.



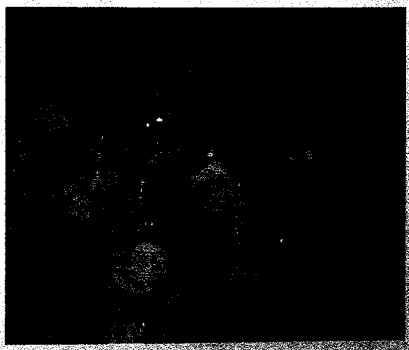
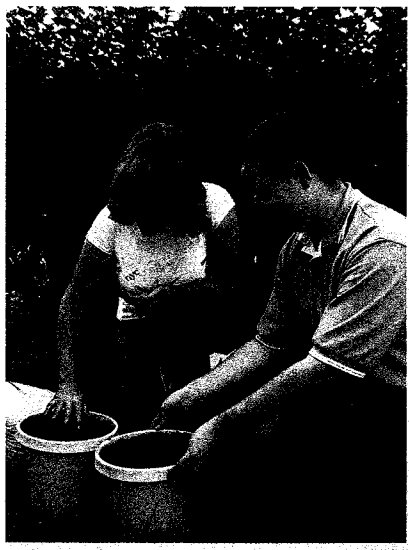
Gardening and Sustainable Food Programs

MSU Extension specialists and agents teach gardening and food and nutrition programs to help Montanans learn to grow, eat and preserve healthier choices.

Community Gardens

With a growing interest in self-and locally-grown produce, many Montana residents are asking about community gardens as a low-cost option to meet the need. Extension is responding to those requests for advice and mentoring on many aspects of growing local foods and creating successful community gardens.

- Requests for more gardening education in Valley County has spurred a response by Extension to provide a community garden and education. Glasgow's new community garden is free to use, and helps provide life and job skill enhancement to those with developmental disabilities who work at the garden. These participants are trained by and work with Extension's Master Gardener students. This year, the garden produced enough to donate 300 pounds of food to the food bank, 250 pounds to the senior center, and 300 pounds to the Milk River Activity Center (MRAC). Clients of MRAC, both senior citizens and low-income families, have improved nutrition in their diets because of produce from both the garden and Master Gardeners.
- In Powell County, the Extension agent and several community volunteers renovated an old city-owned tennis court into a vegetable garden. A \$15,000 grant was obtained to purchase a greenhouse and the supplies for the Deer Lodge Community Garden. With the help of Extension, the Human Resource



Council, the City of Deer Lodge, local businesspeople, the FFA advisor and students, a local lumber company and volunteers, the garden became a reality. Master Gardeners volunteered 180 hours in the area of horticulture education, as well as other volunteer hours in creating the garden.

In early April, the MSU Extension office on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation purchased a tiller for a Small Acres project. The tiller was made available and with no fee to use it, the community got off to a good start with at least 20 new gardens. The project also included free unlimited seeds (ornamentals, fruit and vegetable seeds), which were donated by St. Labre Catholic School.

Master Gardener Program

In 2011, MSU Extension:

- Taught more than 800 Master Gardeners who volunteered more than 12,000 hours in their communities, totaling more than \$200,000 worth of services.
- The work of these Master Gardeners led to more than 7600 pounds of food being donated to community partners.

Resources Supporting Seniors

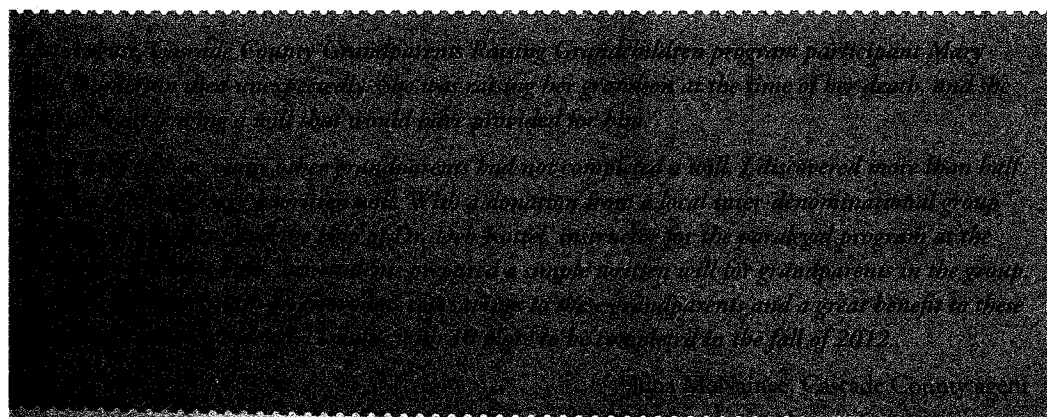
MSU Extension supports seniors directly through financial, health and wellness, and community development programs, and directly with programs for senior caregivers and their families.

Montana Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Project

The Montana Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Project (GRG) is celebrating its tenth year of providing education, support, resources, and research to help grandparent-headed households be more effective as they parent a second time. There are more than 6,600 grandparents with sole responsibility for rearing their grandchildren in Montana. Frequently, grandparents step in during a family crisis to care for grandchildren before the state comes involved. Only about three percent of grandparents raising grandchildren are licensed foster care parents, thus saving an estimated \$202,000 per day for the state of Montana.

Powerful Tools for Caregivers

Powerful Tools for Caregivers (PTC) is a six-week class targeting informal caregivers of aging friends and loved ones. PTC teaches caregivers communication skills when needing help, strategies for reducing stress, and ideas for how to make time for one's self. Throughout Montana, 85 certified class leaders can offer this course. Participants who complete the course report significant gains in feeling confident in their role as a caregiver, finding positive ways to cope with caregiver stress, having an identity outside of being a caregiver, finding ways to take care of themselves, and making decisions regarding caregiving.



state Planning for Montanans

ISU Extension economics specialists provide various opportunities for estate planning through workshops in local communities, printed and online publications, webinars and websites.

- *Think You Know Who Gets Your Property When You Die... Think Again* workshops have been presented in more than 130 communities by Marsha Goetting, MSU Extension family economics specialist, in collaboration with county Extension agents and local community foundations. During 2009 - 2011 more than 5,200 Montanans attended the sessions.
- More than 1,600 Montanans have purchased *Estate Planning: The Basics* packets, which contain a variety of estate planning MontGuides.

- Free live and recorded webinars are available on a variety of estate planning topics (www.montana.edu/extensionecon/webinars.html).
- An interactive website (www.montana.edu/dyingwithoutawill) illustrates how property passes under Montana law when a person dies without a written will. The site had more than 3,200 hits during 2009-2011.



4-H Youth Development

ISU Extension administers the 4-H Youth Development program in Montana. The program offers many opportunities for youth to learn, discover and engage, with an emphasis on teaching life skills and the value of volunteerism.

Daniels County agent Bobbie Roos is one of the many agents committed to the success of Montana's youth through 4-H. "Our youth are the greatest resource we have. 4-H plays an intricate role in developing life skills in our youth for not only their future successes, but for our community, country and world."

- More than 20,000 Montana 4-H members are engaged in over 200 different projects, from traditional agriculture and family and consumer science to technology and leadership.
 - More than 4,000 volunteers provide leadership for 4-H activities and work with youth as partners in learning. These volunteers receive orientation focused on creating safe, inclusive learning environments and training to enhance positive youth development competencies.
- Montana 4-H Congress annually provides 500 youth from across the state an annual four-day leadership, life skill, and career development conference, held on the MSU campus in Bozeman.

- Montana 4-H helps youth become active, contributing members of their communities, locally and beyond. Interactive 4-H Citizenship programs teach youth about government through Citizenship Seminar, Citizenship Washington Focus, and the National 4-H Conference.

The 4-Health Program

The 4-Health Program is a healthy living research project and education program for parents of 4-H youth. The four-year project, with 21 counties participating in 2012, is funded by USDA, and provides



...eat more fresh fruit and vegetables and whole grains and...we are eating a hot meal more often and eating at the table together more often.

4-Health participant

important nutrition, physical activity, body image and parenting skill information to improve the health of preteen 4-H kids. Specifically designed for families in rural Montana, the program takes into consideration concerns such as limited time, money and energy. (www.4health.org)

BioScience Montana

BioScience Montana combines hands-on science with distance learning technologies to offer teams of 4-H students in grades 8-11 and their adult leaders, experience in research while demonstrating how science uses new knowledge to solve problems and increase quality of life. In partnership amongst MSU's Extended University, Department of Cell Biology and Neuroscience, and Montana Center for 4-H Youth Development, BioScience Montana is funded by the National Institutes of Health and is a year-long program that guides Montana teens in their preparation for studies and careers in health sciences and biomedical research fields. (<http://eu.montana.edu/bioscience/>)

Children, Youth and Families at Risk

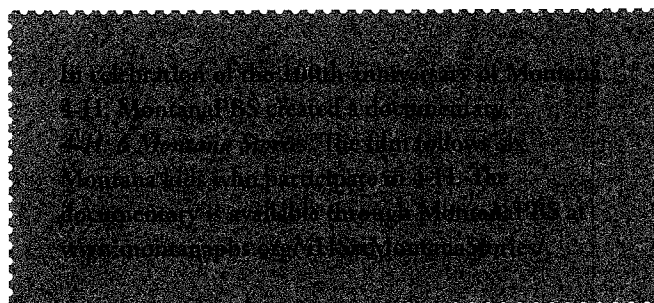
The Children, Youth and Families at Risk (CYFAR) program provides funding to MSU Extension projects in Livingston and St. Xavier. The project at the Pretty Eagle Catholic School in St. Xavier recently won national recognition as one of eight "promising science programs" among 70 in a national report on best practices in science, technology,

engineering and math initiatives for youth. The program uses filmmaking and robotics technology to teach science, math, literacy and life skills to kids ages 9-14.

4-H program coordinator Stephanie Davison stated, "Other programs and youth practitioners can use the national report findings to design a new program or improve an existing one. The report highlights important youth development practices."

Operation Military Kids

Montana 4-H strives to engage military youth and families across the state in educational activities, special events, camps, 4-H clubs, and resource sharing. The Operation Military Kids program is a partnership designed to help military youth cope with the deployment of a family member. 4-H has also partnered with Malmstrom Air Force Base and with National Guard Reserve Units to enroll military youth in 4-H clubs.



Weatherization and Energy Education

MSU Extension offers energy education through MSU Gallatin College classes, community classes and trainings, online video and print and online publications.

E3A: Exploring Energy Efficiency and Alternatives

To make energy decisions easier and more useful for consumers, MSU Extension developed E3A (Exploring Energy Efficiency and Alternatives), a self-guided reference and educator curriculum. Addressing many small-scale energy technologies, from small wind to solar hot water, from solar electric to biodiesel, which can be applied to home, farm, or ranch settings, E3A resources are available to consumers online (www.E3A4U.info) or through the local Extension office. More than 80 fact sheets are available for download, as well as links and information on energy decision-making.

WxTV: Online Home Energy Efficiency Education

Developed in 2010, WxTV (www.wxtvonline.org), is a weatherization online program from MSU Extension Housing and Environmental Health that blends expert advice, how-to techniques, innovation, and reality video.

The program offers instant access to more than 50 videos on topics ranging from energy-efficient lighting, to insulating attics, to using infrared technology to find leaks.

Residential Building Performance Program, MSU Gallatin College

The Residential Building Performance Program at MSU Gallatin College stems from the work of MSU Extension housing and environmental health specialist Michael Vogel, who has provided home energy and environmental health training since 1991. The one-year Certificate of Applied Science training program, a hybrid of online and traditional courses—some of them taught by Extension professionals—helps respond to the educational needs of energy efficient construction professionals, local government administrators, and State Weatherization Assistance Program professionals.

Tribal Healthy Homes Training Program

In an effort to increase family and community wellness among American Indian tribes and Native Alaska communities, the MSU Extension Housing and Environmental Health Program created the National Tribal Healthy Homes Assessment, Training & Technical Assistance Support Center.

Training and technical assistance to support healthy housing assessment, prevention and mitigation was offered nationally to tribes. Training was provided in 15 regions of the U.S. to Native American housing programs, sanitarians, Indian Health Services, tribal colleges, tribal Extension programs and other tribal community leaders/educators, with 108 tribes from 25 different states participating.



Livestock Programs

MSU Extension livestock education and outreach helps youth and producers make informed decisions about nutrition, carcass grading, composting, finances and more.

Nitrate Testing

MSU Extension agents are trained to use the Nitrate QuikTest, which is used in the field or county office to quickly detect high nitrate forages before cutting, grazing or feeding suspect hay. High levels of nitrate, which accumulates during drought conditions, become toxic to livestock and nitrate poisoning can cause chronic conditions, or more severely, abortion and death in livestock.

With testing, producers may be able to delay cutting forage until nitrate levels decrease, or feed limited or blended forage to livestock. County agriculture agents estimate more than 1,300 samples were tested in 2012, saving producers money and providing them with management strategies to safely utilize their cereal forage resources.

ergus County agent Darren Crawford said, "Forage testing has led to higher returns for forage producers through higher prices and changing harvest management. Of those testing forage with us, 75 percent responded that they already had or are planning to develop rations for herds based on results. Two-thirds of those had never balanced a ration before. One hay producer increased the value of his forage by \$25 per ton by testing for protein, energy, and relative feed value. He reported making an extra \$10,000 on his 400 tons of first-cutting alfalfa."

Richland County agent Tim Fine affirmed, "Educating producers about nitrate testing forage has prevented livestock losses. Severe health problems can occur when livestock consume forages and common weed species containing elevated levels of nitrate. Problems include decreased weight gain, decreased milk yield, abortion, and death. The Nitrate Quik-Test offered through extension provides these producers with a cheap, effective route for simple nitrate testing."

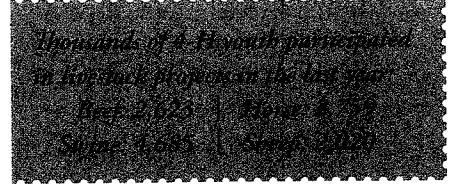
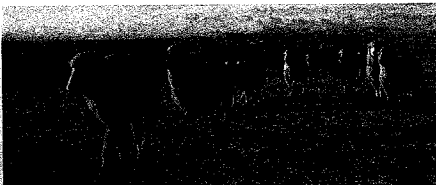
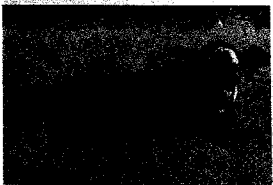
Ration-balancing Saves Money

MSU Extension beef cattle specialist Rachel Endecott focuses her work on encouraging the testing of feedstuffs and then using that information to assist ranchers with developing rations for their animals. This is a very inexpensive source of risk-management and allows ranchers to be able to plan ahead for supplemental feed purchases in a more economical fashion.

Steer of Merit

The Montana Steer of Merit program was initiated in 1967 as a joint effort between the Montana Stockgrowers Association (MSGA) and MSU Extension. The program was designed to measure, record, and improve carcass characteristics in 4-H and Future Farmers of America (FFA) beef cattle projects. Over time, data from the program has led to significant increases in quality and yield grade, or cutability, indicating that cattle can be selected for leaner carcasses with higher cutability and still maintain high quality grade as reflected by marbling. Steer of Merit minimum standards are reviewed each year and the program is updated to meet changing industry standards.

"The Steer of Merit award promotes and recognizes the production of the highest quality of Montana beef with carcass characteristics that meet the U.S. beef industry's standards of excellence," said Errol Rice, MSGA's executive vice president. "We are proud to sponsor this great youth program that teaches and awards 4-H and FFA beef projects that have met or exceeded industry benchmarks in order to meet both domestic and global consumer demand for the 21st century."



Thousands of 4-H youth participated in livestock projects over the last year.

Financial Education

MSU Extension financial education specialists and agents across the state provide classes, publications and support to help Montanan's young and old make informed financial choices.

Providing Adult Financial Education Opportunities

People find it difficult to make good financial decisions without a solid understanding of the implications of financial choices. To address this issue, MSU Extension specialists Joel Schumacher and Marsha Goetting created the Solid Finances adult financial education series to provide free, unbiased and easily accessible financial education.

The 2011-2012 series consisted of 16 one-hour educational sessions focused on Money Management, Investment, Retirement and Estate Planning. The program was delivered primarily through webinar technology thanks to financial support from the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA) Foundation and United Way Worldwide. Any Montanan with access to the Internet could participate. A number of county Extension offices and Montana University System Human Resource offices also hosted group sites for participants. Average attendance at each of the Solid Finances sessions was more than 100. The program sessions were recorded and are available via the web (www.msuextension.org/solidfinances/).

Financial Coalitions

- A silver lining of the economic downturn in Missoula County was the readiness for people to become financially literate. As a result of a partnership to help an Extension client learn basic budgeting skills, a directory of organizations providing financial education and assistance was developed. This evolved into the Missoula Financial Educator's Alliance, which supports financial educators in their efforts to serve Missoula County. The group is comprised of representatives from MSU Extension in Missoula County, credit unions, financial institutions, HomeWORD, high school business and family & consumer sciences departments, University of Montana Student Assistance Foundation, job services, etc.
- Like those in other communities, Richland County kids think a lot about money but know little about how to manage it. To address this concern, then MSU Extension agent Judy Johnson and other members of the financial education coalition offer a week of financial activities every April, geared around spending and saving while students budget "phantom money" for activities and snacks.
- Katelyn Andersen, MSU Extension agent in Ravalli County, has provided leadership in the formulation of the Bitterroot Financial Education Coalition. The coalition combined the educational efforts and resources of local entities to serve the overwhelming financial education needs of Ravalli County constituents. Plans for providing continued financial education to Ravalli County residents include the Financial Tip of the Day on the local radio station, the Bitterroot Financial Coalition on Facebook, and a listing of financial classes on the Bitterroot RC&D website (bitterrootrcd.org).



National and Statewide Recognition

National Award for Diversity

The MSU Extension Tribal Housing and Environmental Health Program received the 2012 National Award for Diversity from the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities.

The award recognizes the program's "support of diversity, pluralism and innovation" in the work it does in three national initiatives: the Tribal Healthy Homes Assessment and Training Center at MSU; the Native AIR (Asthma Intervention and Reduction) program; and the National Tribal Pollution Prevention Working Group, or Tribal P2.

These are all projects with a national scope that help those in reservation communities, where concerns about the quality and health impacts of housing are often pressing issues," said Mike Vogel, director of the Tribal Healthy Homes Assessment and Training Center. "This puts us in a leadership role," Vogel said. "That's something Montanans can be proud of. People know about Extension, but typically think we are mostly involved in agriculture. That we do with the Tribal Housing and Environmental Health Program is a great example of the Extension mission - we are directly involved with projects that are aimed at helping every consumer."

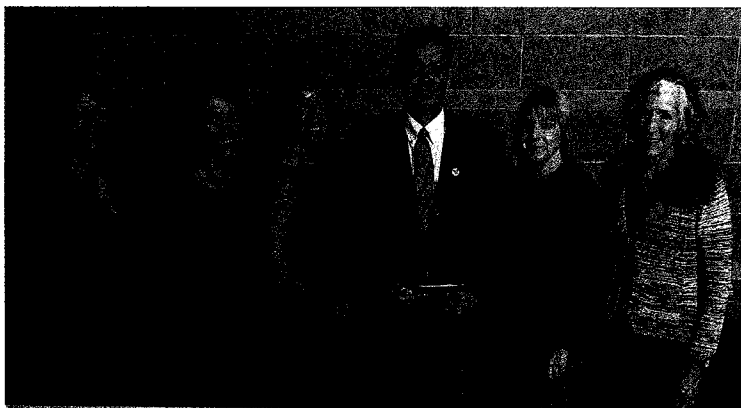
Excellence in Extension Award for Research

Mary Burrows, MSU Extension plant pathology specialist, received the 2012 Excellence in Extension Western Region Award from the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities.

Burrows seamlessly combines research and Extension appointments to provide growers with research-based information on plant disease control in field crops including cereals (wheat, barley) and pulses (pea, lentil, chickpea).

In 2011, Burrows helped growers manage a wheat stripe rust epidemic in Montana in anticipation of an emerging crisis, with exceptional research, and multi-faceted outreach skills.

Burrows is also conducting a project to measure economic impact of the 55 National Plant Diagnostic Network laboratories. Her leadership of a wheat virus survey resulted in publications, speaking engagements in the U.S. and Canada, and a degree-day model to predict symptom onset in wheat. The model will be used by researchers and Extension specialists in the U.S. as well as other countries.



Tribal Housing and Environmental Health staff (L to R): Barb Allen, Myla Kelly, Mary, Schaad, Dr. Michael Vogel, Debbie Albin, Glenda Barnes.



(L to R): Dr. Jeff Jacobsen, Dean and Director of MSU College of Agriculture; Dr. Mary Burrows; Dr. Jill Martz, Interim Director of MSU Extension.

Provost's Excellence in Outreach Award

2012: Mary Burrows and John Pfister

Mary Burrows, plant science/plant pathology, was honored for her comprehensive work addressing the wheat stripe rust epidemic of 2011. Despite the disease impacting spring and winter wheat growers on more than 1.5 million acres, Burrows' Extension outreach increased their income by more than \$100 million. She started informing growers about the disease in the fall of 2010. She also detected the first signs that a new trace of the rust fungus might be involved and worked with MSU wheat breeders and USDA pathologists to confirm her discovery.

John Pfister, Extension agent for Musselshell/Golden Valley County, was honored for outstanding outreach as the floods of 2011 devastated the two Montana counties under his jurisdiction. In addition to his normal work as an Extension agent, Pfister chaired twice-daily briefing sessions for government officials, the media, and organizations and agencies that deal with disasters. He developed a system of photographing and mapping that allowed him to document flood conditions in both counties. He conducted public information meetings, distributed water well test kits, helped review school bus routes, worked with the local 4-H Council to relocate the county fair and provided constantly updated information through the Musselshell-Golden Valley Extension website.

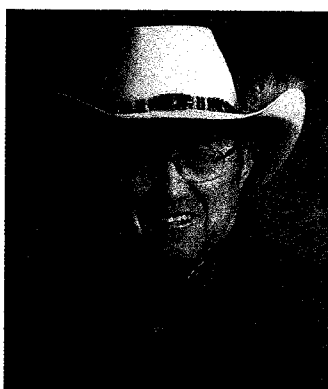
2013: Dave Bertelsen

Dave Bertelsen, Extension agent for Wibaux County, is honored for his work in community development and preserving community vitality in Wibaux. Bertelsen recognized challenges of business retention, population loss, and infrastructure deterioration in this small eastern Montana town years ago and began deeply transformative efforts in the community to address them. His leadership on the project of "Recreating the Gateway to Montana," brought historic street lights to Main Street, a complete renovation of the library and a new Fair Exhibit Building/Community Center.

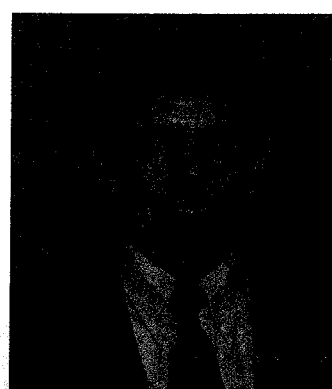
Bertelsen also received the 2012 Silver Buffalo Award, the organization's highest honor, from Montana's Joint Council of Extension Professionals, in recognition of his 25-plus years of exceptional service.



Dr. Mary Burrows



John Pfister



Dave Bertelsen

COUNTY OFFICE INFORMATION

Beaverhead County

Dillon, MT 59725-2799

Phone: (406) 683-3785

Big Horn County

Hardin, MT 59034-0908

Phone: (406) 665-9770

Blackfeet Reservation

Browning, MT 59417-0850

Phone: (406) 338-2650

Blaine County

Chinook, MT 59523-0519

Phone: (406) 357-3200

Broadwater County

Townsend, MT 59644-2397

Phone: (406) 266-9242

Carbon County

Joliet, MT 59041-0230

Phone: (406) 962-3522

Cascade County

Great Falls, MT 59404-4225

Phone: (406) 454-6980

Chouteau County

Fort Benton, MT 59442-0459

Phone: (406) 622-3751

Custer County

Miles City, MT 59301-3419

Phone: (406) 874-3370

Daniels County

Scobey, MT 59263-0187

Phone: (406) 487-2861

Dawson County

Glendive, MT 59330-1616

Phone: (406) 377-4277

Deer Lodge County

Anaconda, MT 59711-2950

Phone: (406) 563-4035

Fallon-Carter Counties

Baker, MT 59313-0850

Phone: (406) 778-7110

Fergus County

Lewistown, MT 59457-2562

Phone: (406) 535-3919

Flathead County

Kalispell, MT 59901-5400

Phone: (406) 758-5553

Flathead Reservation

Polson, MT 59860

Phone: (406) 275-2756

Fort Belknap Reservation

Harlem, MT 59526-9705

Phone: (406) 353-2656

Fort Peck Reservation

Poplar, MT 59255

Phone: (406) 768-3431

Gallatin County

Belgrade, MT 59714

Phone: (406) 388-3213

Garfield County

Jordan, MT 59337-0081

Phone: (406) 557-2770

Glacier County

Cut Bank, MT 59427-3152

Phone: (406) 873-2239

Granite County

Philipsburg, MT 59858-0665

Phone: (406) 859-3304

Hill County

Havre, MT 59501-3923

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Judith Basin County

Stanford, MT 59479-0427

Phone: (406) 566-2277

Lake County

Ronan, MT 59864-2328

Phone: (406) 676-4271

Lewis & Clark County

Helena, MT 59602

Phone: (406) 447-8346

Liberty County

Chester, MT 59522-0607

Phone: (406) 759-5625

Lincoln County

Eureka, MT 59917

Phone: (406) 296-9019

Madison-Jefferson Counties

Whitehall, MT 59759-1079

Phone: (406) 287-3282

McCone County

Circle, MT 59215-0200

Phone: (406) 485-2605

Meagher County

White Sulphur Springs, MT 59645

Phone: (406) 547-3612

Mineral County

Superior, MT 59872-0730

Phone: (406) 822-3545,

Missoula County

Missoula, MT 59808

Phone: (406) 258-4200

Musselshell-Golden Valley Counties

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Northern Cheyenne Reservation

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Park County

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Phillips County

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Pondera County

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Powder River County

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Powell County

Deer Lodge, MT 59722-1084

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Prairie County

Terry, MT 59349-0007

Phone: (406) 635-2121

Ravalli County

Hamilton, MT 59840

Phone: (406) 375-6611

Richland County

Sidney, MT 59270

Phone: (406) 433-1206

Roosevelt County

Culbertson, MT 59218-0416

Phone: (406) 787-5312

Rosebud-Treasure Counties

Forsyth, MT 59327-0065

Phone: (406) 346-7320

Sanders County

Thompson Falls, MT 59873

Phone: (406) 827-6934

Sheridan County

Plentywood, MT 59254-1619

Phone: (406) 765-3406

Silver Bow County

Butte, MT 59701-1659

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Shelby, MT 59474-1920

Phone: (406) 424-8350

Valley County

Glasgow, MT 59230-2423

Phone: (406) 228-6241

Wheatland County

Harlowton, MT 59036

Phone: (406) 632-4728

Wibaux County

Wibaux, MT 59353-0345

Phone: (406) 796-2486

Yellowstone County

Billings, MT 59107-5021

Phone: (406) 256-2828

WWW.MSUEXTENSION.ORG



MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION



Across Generations, Across Montana

EXHIBIT NO. 15
DATE 1/15/13

BILL NO. 15

Montana State University Extension—in collaboration with communities, landowners, families, local and county governments, businesses, organizations and individuals—applies unbiased, research-based university resources to address the practical needs of Montana's people and strategically move Montana into the future.

- Montana covers more than 147,000 square miles and is the third least densely populated state in the nation. MSU Extension connects rural and urban, mountains and prairies, young and old in a cohesive, grassroots manner that no other agency can. Extension's roots in communities are deep and allow for true integration and community level problem-solving and planning.
- **MSU Extension...**
has 92 agents and 32 specialists living and working in more than 60 communities statewide.
- **Montana 4-H...**
reaches approximately 20,000 youth and 4,000 adult volunteers each year in all counties and reservations and is the largest out-of-school youth development program in the state. Programming focuses on life skill development, leadership, citizenship, and civic engagement.
- **MSU Extension Family & Consumer Sciences (FCS)...**
programming is focused on family economics, family and human development, food and nutrition, as well as housing and environmental health. FCS professionals pool their expertise to provide innovative and targeted programs specifically designed to meet Montana's needs.
- **MSU Extension Agriculture & Natural Resources...**
programs work directly with local producers and land owners to identify regional concerns, conduct applicable research accordingly and apply the results in a manner that leads to increased profits, reduced loss, a safe and sufficient food supply and environmentally sound and sustainable best practices.
- **MSU Extension Community Development...**
programming improves the well-being of individuals, families and communities using research-based programs that educate and build community capacity.

With full funding of the Extension budget request and additional funds for the Local Government Center, Schutter Diagnostic Lab and Extension Specialist positions, MSU Extension can continue to work with local communities to educate citizens, provide resources, and offer services that positively impact the economic, social and environmental well-being of Montana citizens.



We need Extension today, more than ever, because our society is growing not only in size, but also in the nature and complexity of its problems. ...Extension provides access to all, sharing the land-grant value of serving every man, woman and child who can benefit from the fruits of our educational labor.

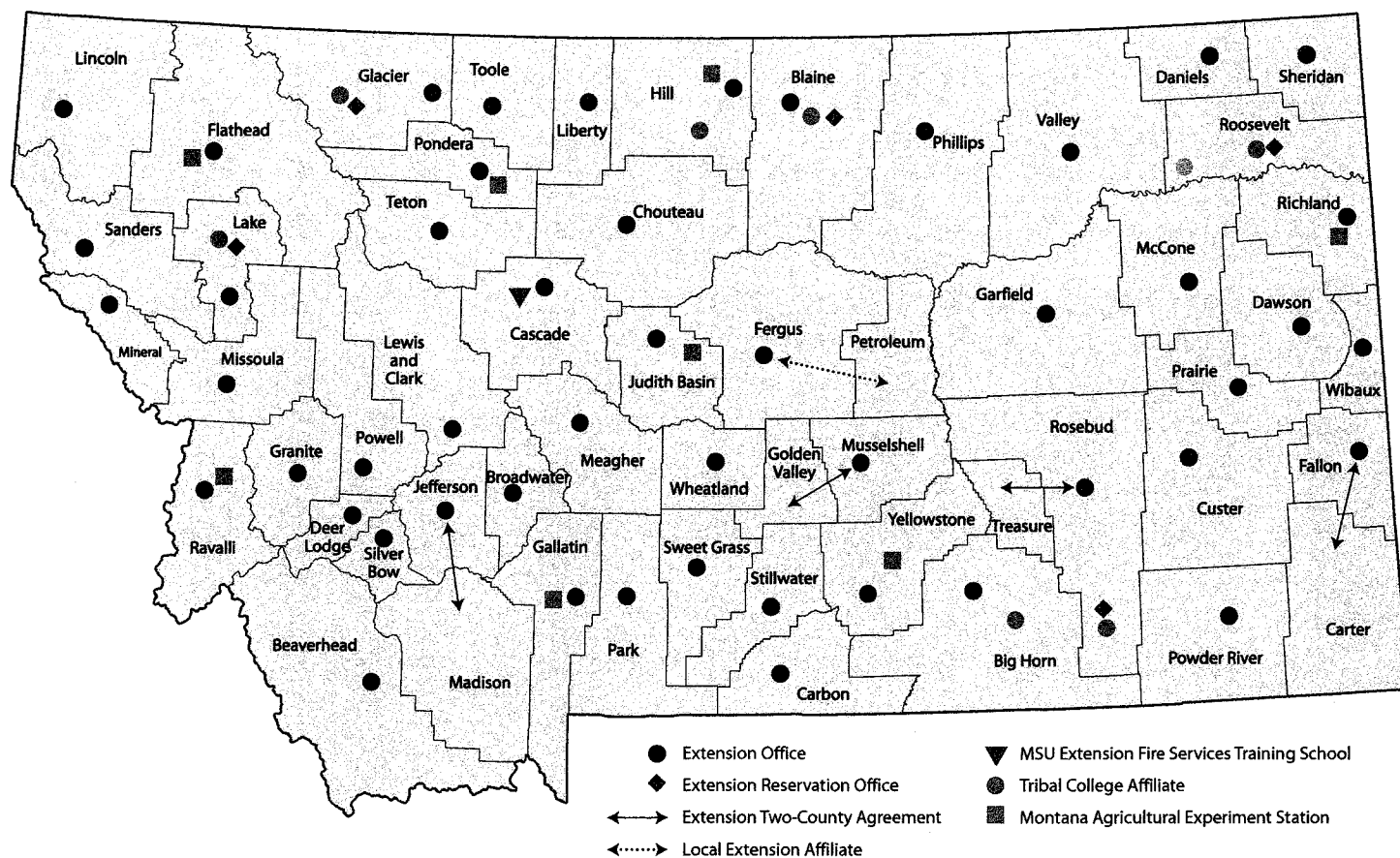
— President Waded Cruzado



MONTANA
STATE UNIVERSITY

EXTENSION

P.O. Box 172230
Bozeman, MT 59717-223
Tel: (406) 994-1750
msuextension@montana.edu



Beaverhead County

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Montana State University Extension Schutter Diagnostic Lab

Helping Montanans Preserve their Agricultural and Natural Resources

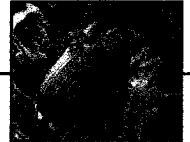
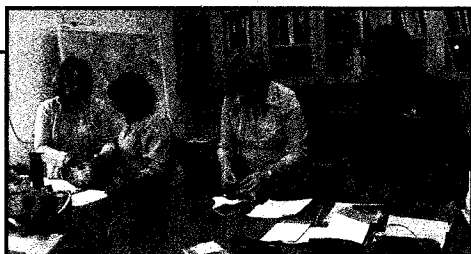
Montana State University and MSU Extension provide identification services for plants, plant diseases, insect infestation, insect damage, abiotic problems, and mushrooms through the Schutter Diagnostic Lab (SDL).

Economic Value

- The SDL is rated as having high economic value to the citizens of Montana and adjoining states.
- The direct **economic impact** of recommendations in 2011 was **\$100 million**. Wheat growers saved the majority through diagnosis and outreach based on stripe rust samples submitted.
- In 2012, education of one field agronomist about stripe rust is estimated to have impacted 48,000 acres with an **economic benefit** to growers of **\$4 million**.
- Wheat streak mosaic virus samples and recommendations during a field visit saved growers in Pondera County **\$540,000** in crop replacement costs and realized yields.

Impacting Local Citizens

- A spider identified within hours after a child was bitten prevented serious ill effects.
- A group planning to make jam from the fruit of white bryony, which resembles grapes, could have been fatal if not accurately identified.
- Yellow Starthistle confirmations led to actions to eliminate this noxious weed in two counties.
- Data from the 9-state Great Plains wheat virus survey was used to develop a degree day model for wheat viruses to predict disease outbreaks.
- Routinely identify and analyze plants, mushrooms, and moldy and diseased grain for animal and human toxicity.



Education and Outreach

- Agroemergency preparedness education reached **4,500 growers** directly and 170,000 indirectly through television appearances on Montana Ag Live (Montana PBS) during 2011.
- In 2011, diagnosticians reached an audience of more than 54,000 with diagnostic and IPM-related presentations and publications.
- A webinar series for the Great Plains Diagnostic Network featured topics such as **Spotted Wing Drosophila**, **Zebra Chip**, bed bugs, and methods for teaching adult learners (www.gpdn.org).
- Authoritativeness of county agents with their clients was increased by providing accurate identifications and management recommendations.
- SDL was instrumental in early detection and rapid response to herbicide resistant weeds including wild oat and kochia

With full funding of the Extension budget request and additional funds for the Local Government Center, Schutter Diagnostic Lab and Extension Specialist positions, MSU Extension can continue to work with local communities to educate citizens, provide resources and offer services that positively impact the economic, social and environmental well-being of Montana citizens.



Schutter Diagnostic Lab
Montana State University
P.O. Box 173150
Bozeman, MT 59717-3150
Tel: (406) 994-5150
E-mail: diagnostics@montana.edu

Map of Montana showing county boundaries and names. The map is oriented with the state's outline. County names are labeled within their respective boundaries. The map is shaded in a light gray color.


Counties serviced by SDL (2011)



Montana State University Extension Local Government Center

Making a Difference for Montanans in Their Hometowns and Counties

DID YOU KNOW?

Montana's county and city officials are responsible for:

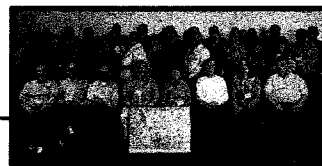
- more than **\$1 billion in public funds**.
- more than **11,000 employees**.

Many of these public servants have little or no training in roles and responsibilities, human resources, public meeting laws or budgeting and financing.

The Local Government Center (LGC) on the Montana State University campus in Bozeman **provides the only training, technical assistance and research** of its kind for Montana's county and city elected officials and employees.



- The LGC offers more than 100 **affordable professional development workshops** each year.
- Ninety percent of newly-elected county commissioners attend a 40-hour (2-year) certification program and over 70 percent of municipal clerks, treasurers and finance officers receive certification through a 120-hour (3-year) training program.
- More than 7,000 local officials and citizen board members attended one or more LGC workshops in FY11.
- LGC training **prevents costly errors** that could negatively impact counties and municipalities up to millions of dollars.



- The Montana Constitution requires a **Voter Review Process** every 10 years for all local governments; the LGC provides assistance, and is poised to provide assistance to communities for the 2014 review.
- The LGC recently published a **Municipal Officials Handbook** and a **Municipal Clerks, Treasurers and Finance Officers Procedures Manual**, the only such resources for the state of Montana.
- The LGC mobilizes statewide resources, key agencies and MSU faculty to provide local governments with **efficient government strategies** and best practices.

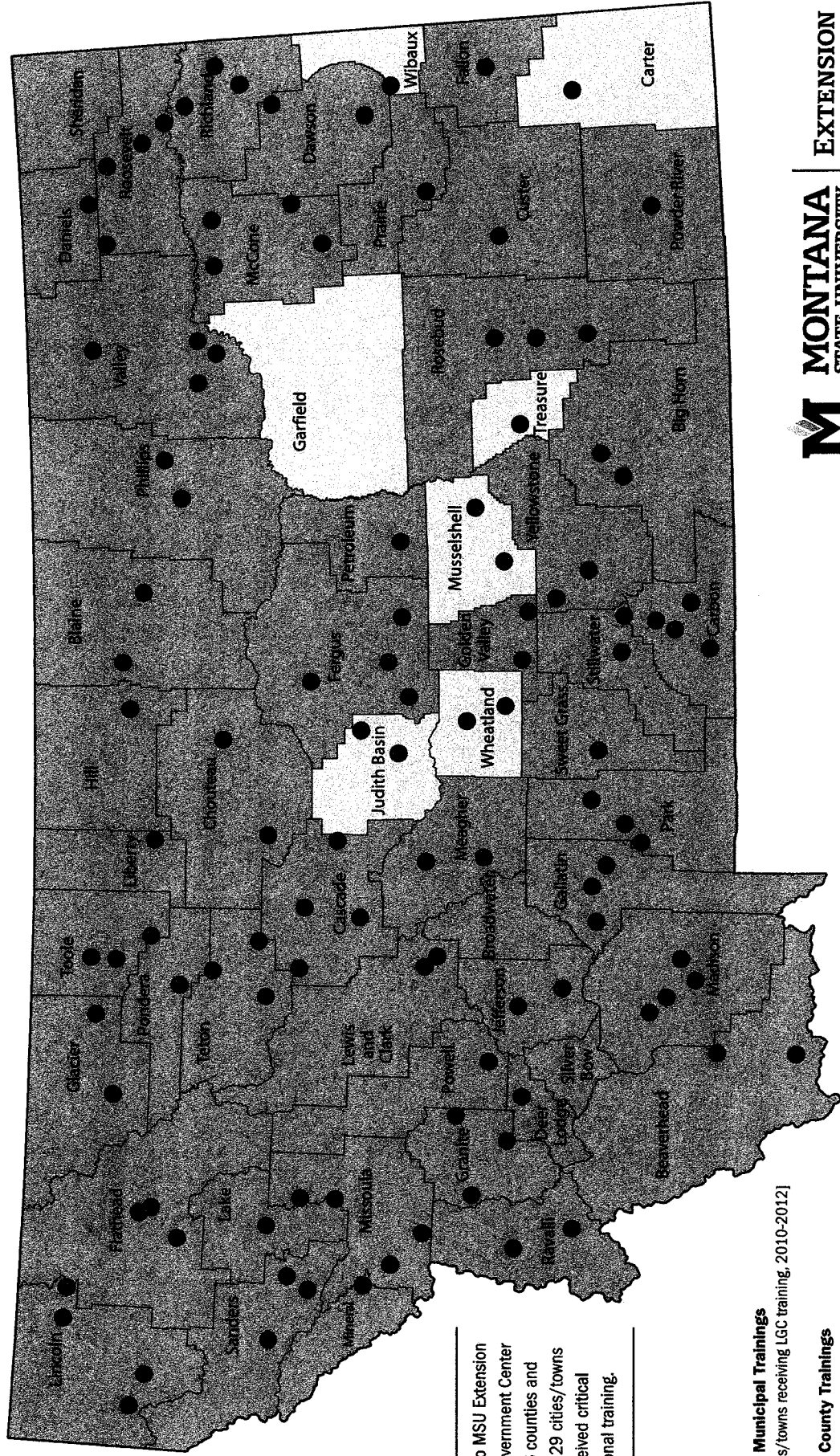
MSU Extension Local Government Center has no Montana general fund base budget funding and is in jeopardy of discontinuation.

With full funding of the Extension budget request and additional funds for the Local Government Center, Schutter Diagnostic Lab and Extension Specialist positions, MSU Extension can continue to work with local communities to educate citizens, provide resources and offer services that positively impact the economic, social and environmental well-being of Montana citizens.



Local Government Center
Culbertson Hall
P.O. Box 170535
Bozeman, MT 59717-0535
(406) 994-6694
www.msulocalgov.org

Making a Difference for Montanans in Their Hometowns and Counties



Thanks to MSU Extension
Local Government Center
49 of 56 counties and
110 of 129 cities/towns
have received critical
professional training.

● LGC Municipal Trainings

[Cities/towns receiving LGC training, 2010-2012]

■ LGC County Trainings

[Counties receiving LGC training, 2010-2012]